Animal ACADEMY

はこぶね白書 HAKOBUNE HAKUSHO

1

MOYAMU FUJINO

HAKOBUNE
はこぶね日誌
HAKUSHI
Cartoon by
MOYAMU FUJINO
藤野もやむ

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Volume 1

by

MOYAMU FUJINO

Animal Academy: Hakobune Hakusho Volume 1
Created by Moyamu Fujino

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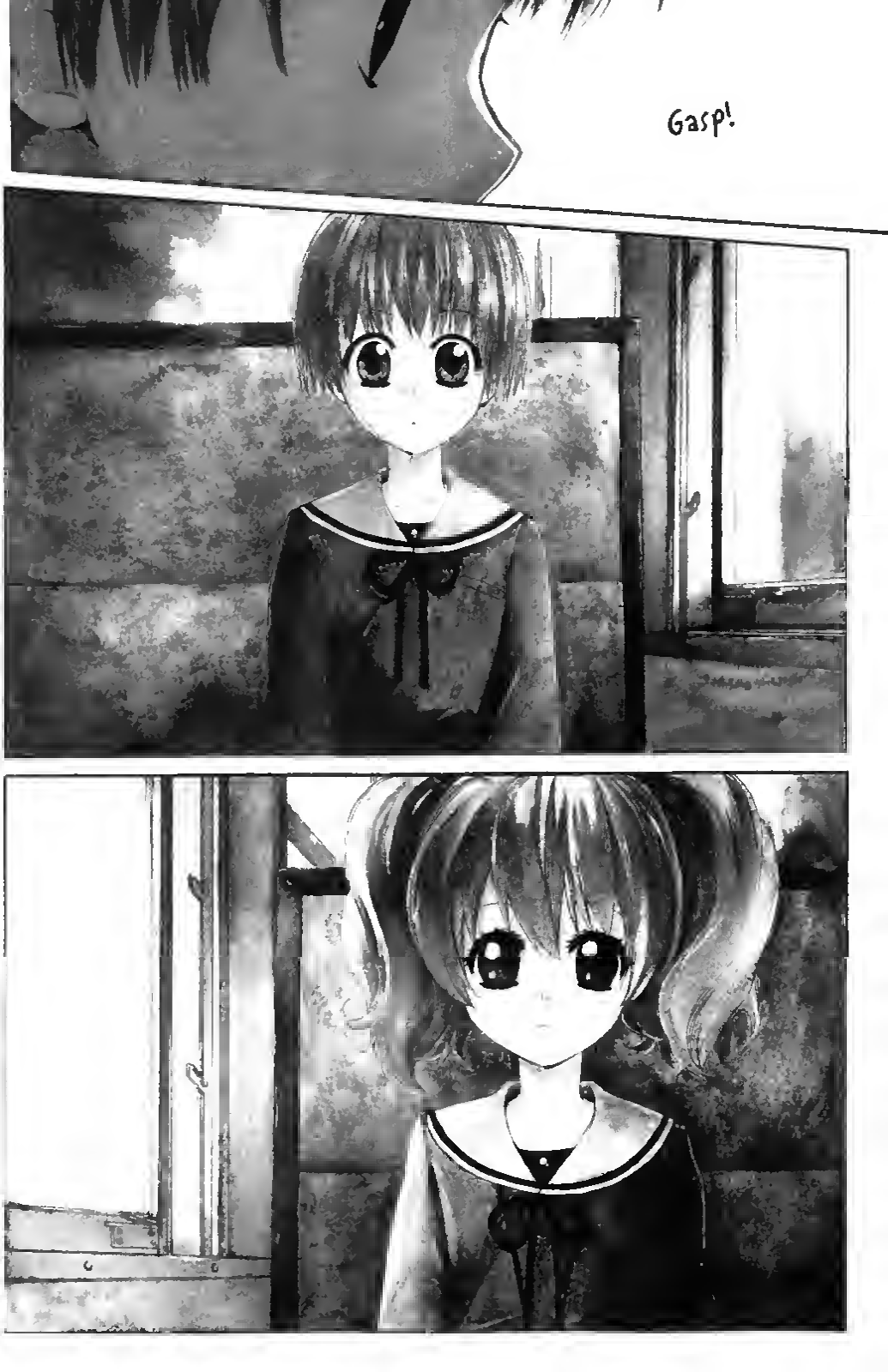
I'm such a horrible student.
I haven't been accepted to any high schools yet.
Graduation day meant they were kicking me out, right?
...I just sat there feeling awful.
All through my junior high graduation...
My thoughts spun until I couldn't take it anymore.
Crying like that...
Pretty pathetic, huh?

Report.1 School!

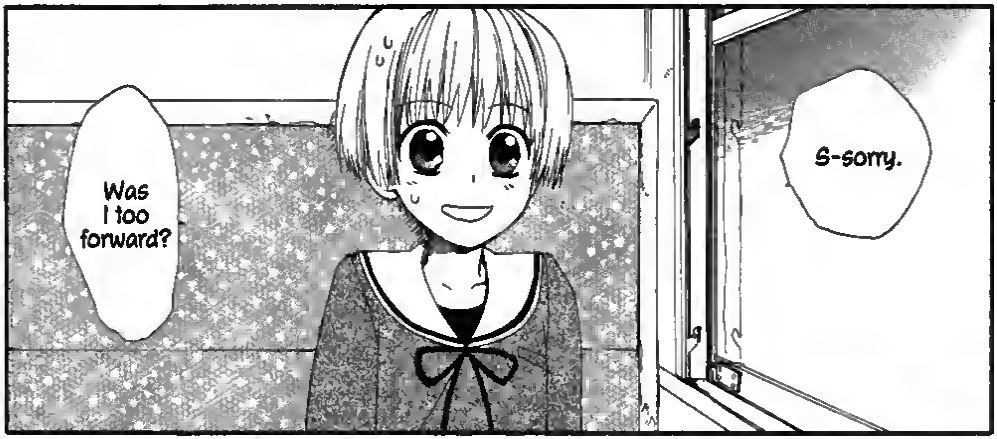

Gasp!

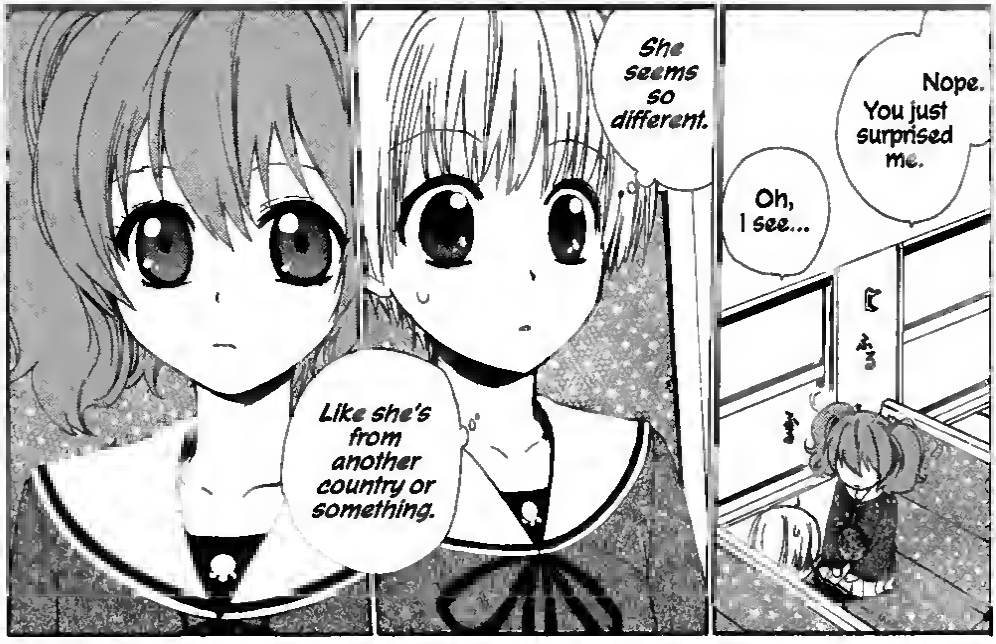
Hello.
H-hi there...
Aaah!
When did I fall asleep?
I almost missed my stop.
Whew!
It's spring.
The big day is finally here.

Starting today, I'm a high school student!
It's the first day of my new life.
I'm three hours away from home--farther than I've ever traveled alone before!
I hope I like living in a dorm...
...and I hope I make some new friends.
Um...
You go to Morimori High, right? I'm a new student there!
I'm Neko* Fukuta!

* "Neko" means "cat"

I'm...
...
Miiko
...
...
Suzu-
hara.
.....


Was
I too
forward?
S-sorry.


Like she's
from
another
country or
something.
She
seems
so
different.
Nope.
You just
surprised
me.
Oh,
I see...

She's so adorable.
Her eyes are the exact same color as the ocean.
Oh!
Oops!
Shouldn't stare at her like that...
stare
.....
I figured this was a school for losers, since they accepted me and all...
Ack... I haven't even seen the place, and I'm already jumping to conclusions.
.....
Me too.
Huh...? You're a new student too?
.....

Ah!
This is our stop.
I wonder what the school's like?
ガー
Huh?
She went on ahead?
Ooof!
ping
ping
ping
ping
H-hey!
Wait up!
ping
ping
ping

Ding
Ding
Ding
Ding
ガタン
Ozuki

Wow.
There were that many students on the train?
.....
I didn't go with them!
They left me behind!
Oh no!
Huff...
Oh well ...

Huh? Oh...!
You waited for me?
Wh-whoa...
She didn't go ahead?
I was worried about going by myself.
No, I mean...
...thanks so much!
Yeah.
They did.
I thought everyone had gone without me.

Thank goodness.
Oh, right!
Me too.
Wait, it's too soon to be relieved!
All we've done so far is get to the station!
Maybe it'd be faster to ask someone.
Wow, this map is confusing...

You can tell without looking at the map?
I think so.
Hey.
Huh?
This way.
Wha ...?
Seems like we're going deeper into the forest...
Is it really okay to go this way?

The map isn't making any sense.
I don't get it. I know I'm horrible with schoolwork, but I can figure stuff like this out!
...Usually.
But this is...
What if we're lost out here?
Yikes, getting lost on my first day of school... Mom would cry...
Is this an animal trail or something?
Wait...
Um...
KO/K
Hey.
Why am I always so negative?
What if I never find it?
No, stop that!

You should've said something sooner.
Dw ow ow...
... Yeah.
You okay?
What is...
...this?
Welcome to Morimori High School
Whoa!
Morimori High School
Station
...we made it!!!
This is it!
It doesn't look like a school at all, but...

I don't know how, but we made it!
Thank you!!!
I have to admit, I was getting kinda--no, I was getting *seriously* worried!

This is so great! Anyway, I'll just put the map away...
Huh? What are you doing?

Don't you think this is weird, though?
Is this really how high school usually begins?
?

Oh, right! We need our acceptance letter to get in.
Wow, I'm so nervous.

I hope we're in the same class.
I'm finally a high school student...
My heart is pounding.
Neko Fukuta-san?
This is a once-in-a-lifetime thing.
I have to treasure this moment!

She's so cute when she smiles.
Yeah!
Wow.
That's right!
My new life is about to begin!
Come to Morimori High School
This way

Okay!
Positive thinking time!
I'm gonna go for it!
Neko Fukuta-san!
Fukuta-san?

All of the school's new students have received a letter of invitation.
Please present yours.
!
Yes!
Kizu-sensei.
No need to be so formal.
That must be the head-master...
Stand up straight. You are addressing the head-master!
Y-yes, sir!
Yes?

Relax! All I have to do is give it to them...
Th-thump Th-thump
Here!
Here it is, sir!
pfft.
Heh heh.
They're laughing at me!
.....

Huh?
A human...
!
Well, yes...
Of course...
I see.
So you came here in ignorance. How unfortunate.
In that case, I cannot accept this admission letter.

Would someone...
...please escort her back to the station?
Wh-what...?

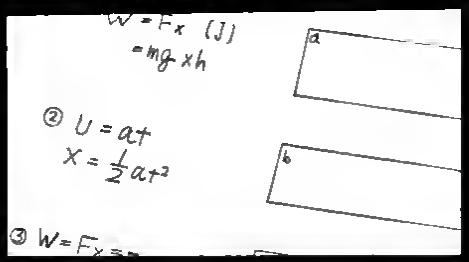
Fukuta-san.
I'll take her.
Yes, Head-master.
Neko Fukuta-san!
Why ...?
.....
Rejected.

Why won't you accept my letter?
Why? What's going on...?
I was accepted... I made it this far!
How can you reject me *now*?
Why?
Fukuta-san--
I don't under-stand!
.....
Please... Please...!

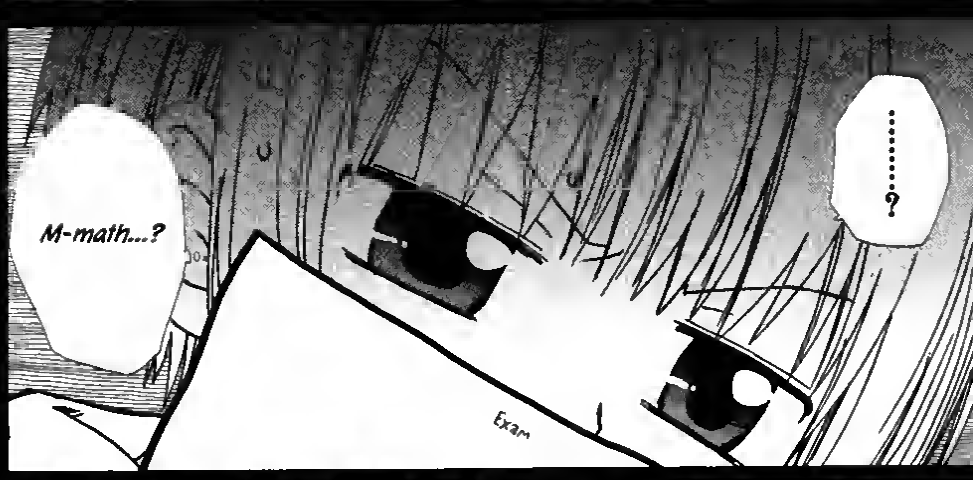
This really is the only place...
...I can go.
I know I'm not that smart! I admit it!
All the other schools flat-out rejected me.
But there's nowhere else for me to go.
Please!
Please let me enroll here!
Really?
It is unfair to send you away so abruptly.
You're right.

Huh?
Wha-?
What's this?
I'm getting a bad feeling...
Please take a seat.
Where am I?
No!
W-wait!
I'm terrible at written tests!
I swear my stupidity is at an all-time high!
You will have to pass the test.
I knew it!
We're going to have you take the test over again.

Seri-
ously?!
Huh?
You have 30 minutes.


W = Fx (J)
= mg × h
② U = at
X = 1/2 at²
③ W = Fx
a
b

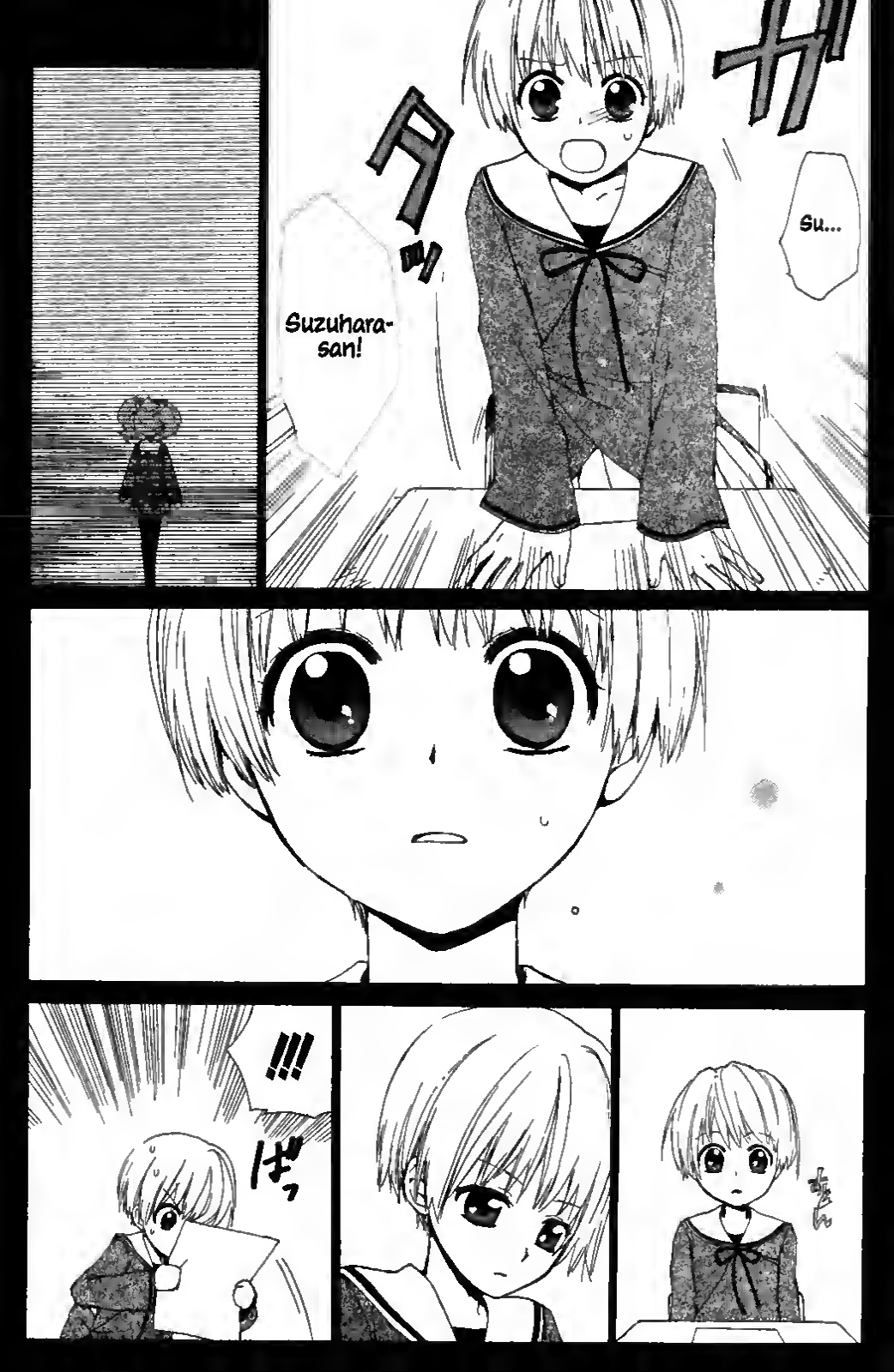
When did this paper get here?
Aah!

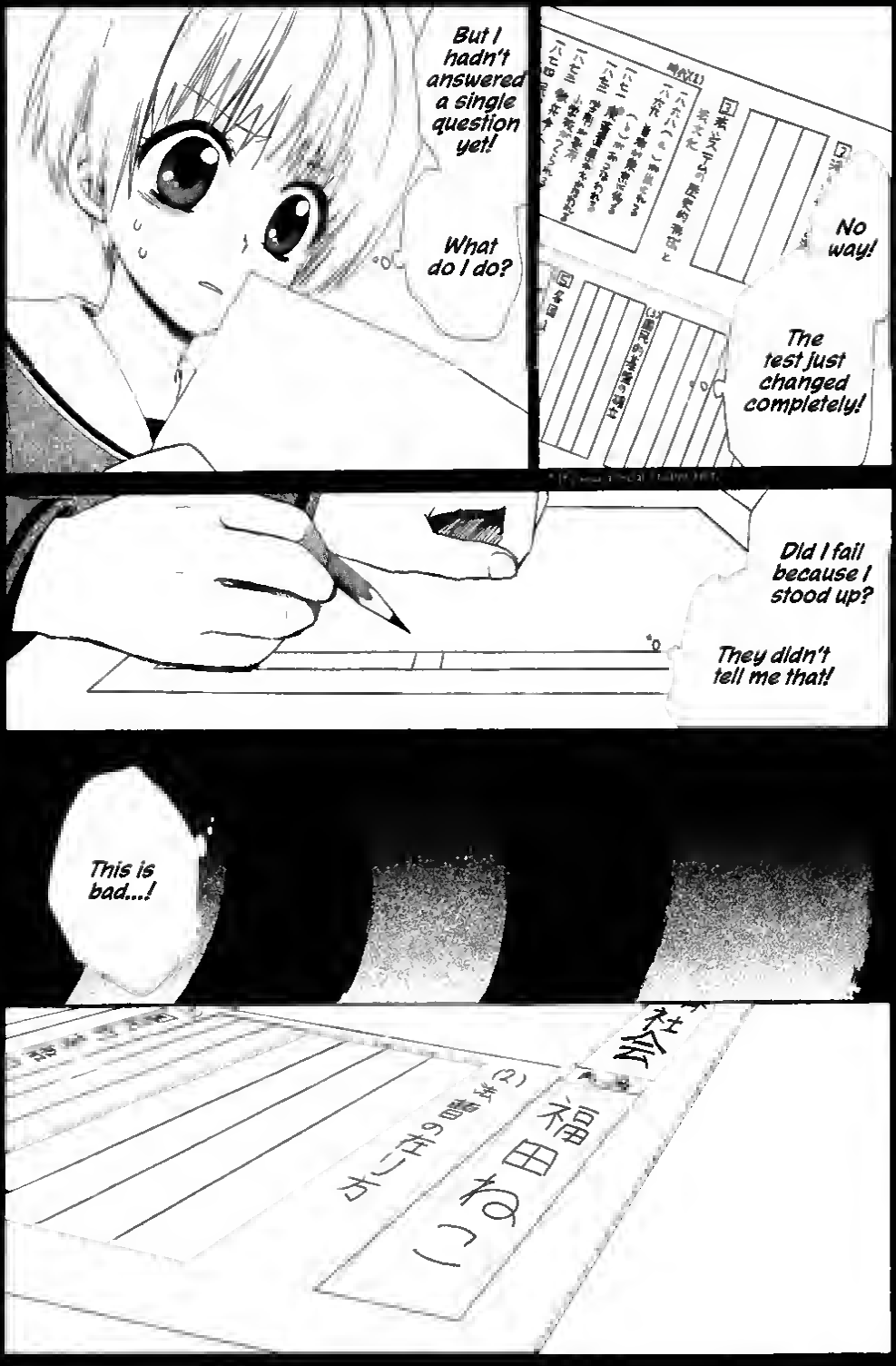

M-math...?
.....?
Exam

I've gotta do it too!
Right!
Probably everyone who comes here has to do this.

But honestly what's the point of anything harder than basic arithmetic?
Okay this isn't the time for that.
Just calm down...

Huh?
Miiko Suzuhara-san.
Yes.
Please show me your letter.
It's her!
Yes, we accept your enrollment.
Please proceed.
Huh?
Wh-wha ...?
What?!


Suzuhara-san!
Su...
!!!
ばっ


But I hadn't answered a single question yet!
What do I do?
No way!
The test just changed completely!
Did I fail because I stood up?
They didn't tell me that!
This is bad...!

……
What should I do?

I'm going to fail.
They said they didn't want me, and then they made me take this test.
What can...
...I...?

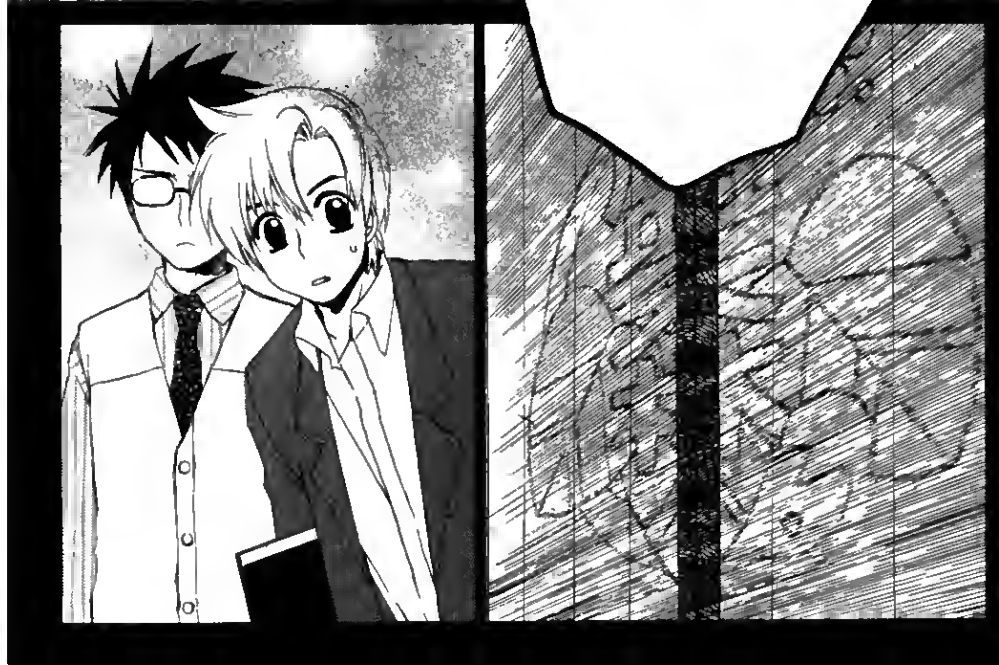
How embarrassing
How could I let myself get so excited?
How pathetic can I be?
Stupid...
I'm so stupid!
福田
!
"Me too."

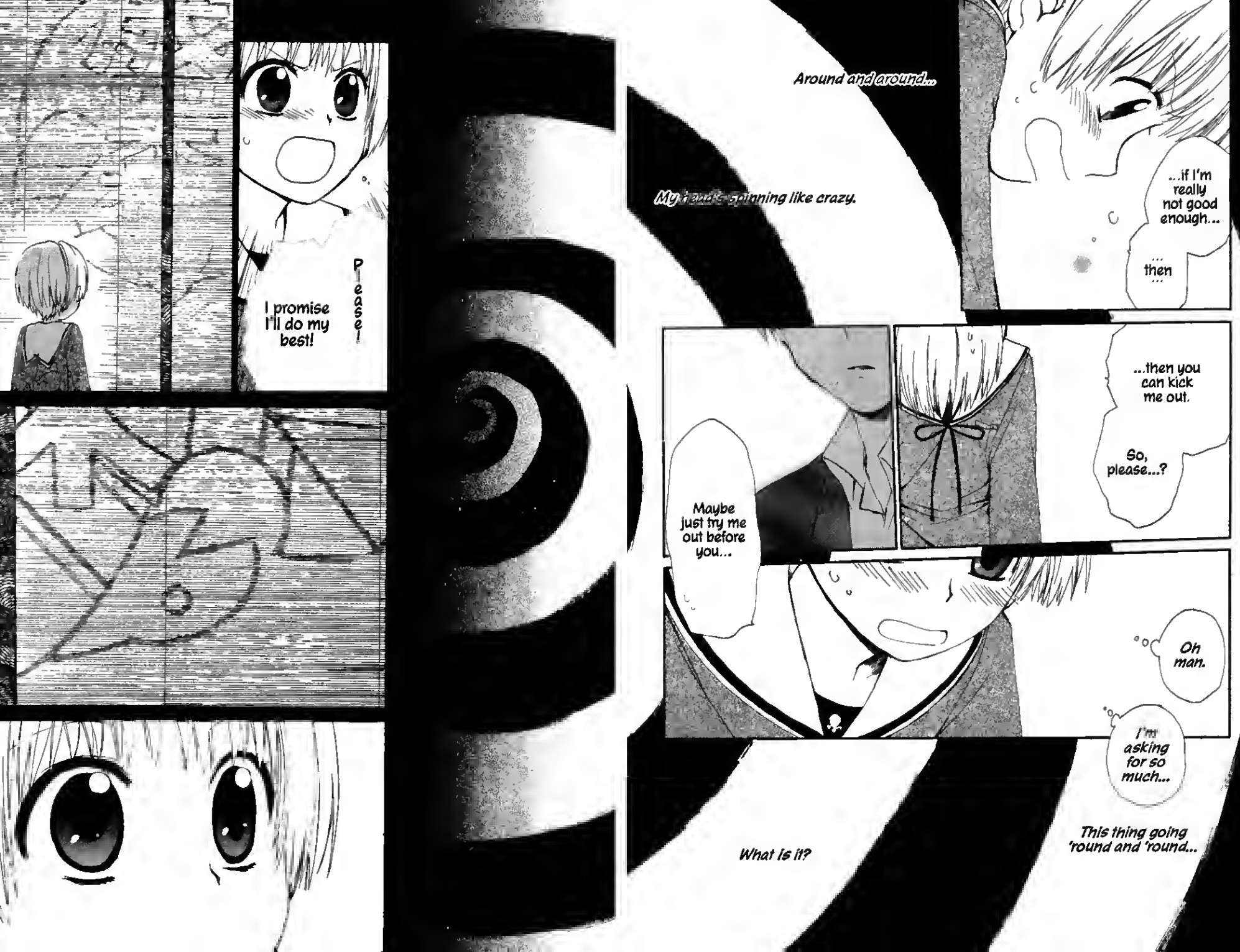
"I hope we're in the same class."

"/
Come on, pull yourself together!
I'm sorry, I can't do this!
But...
ばっ!

Please!
Please let me come to your school!

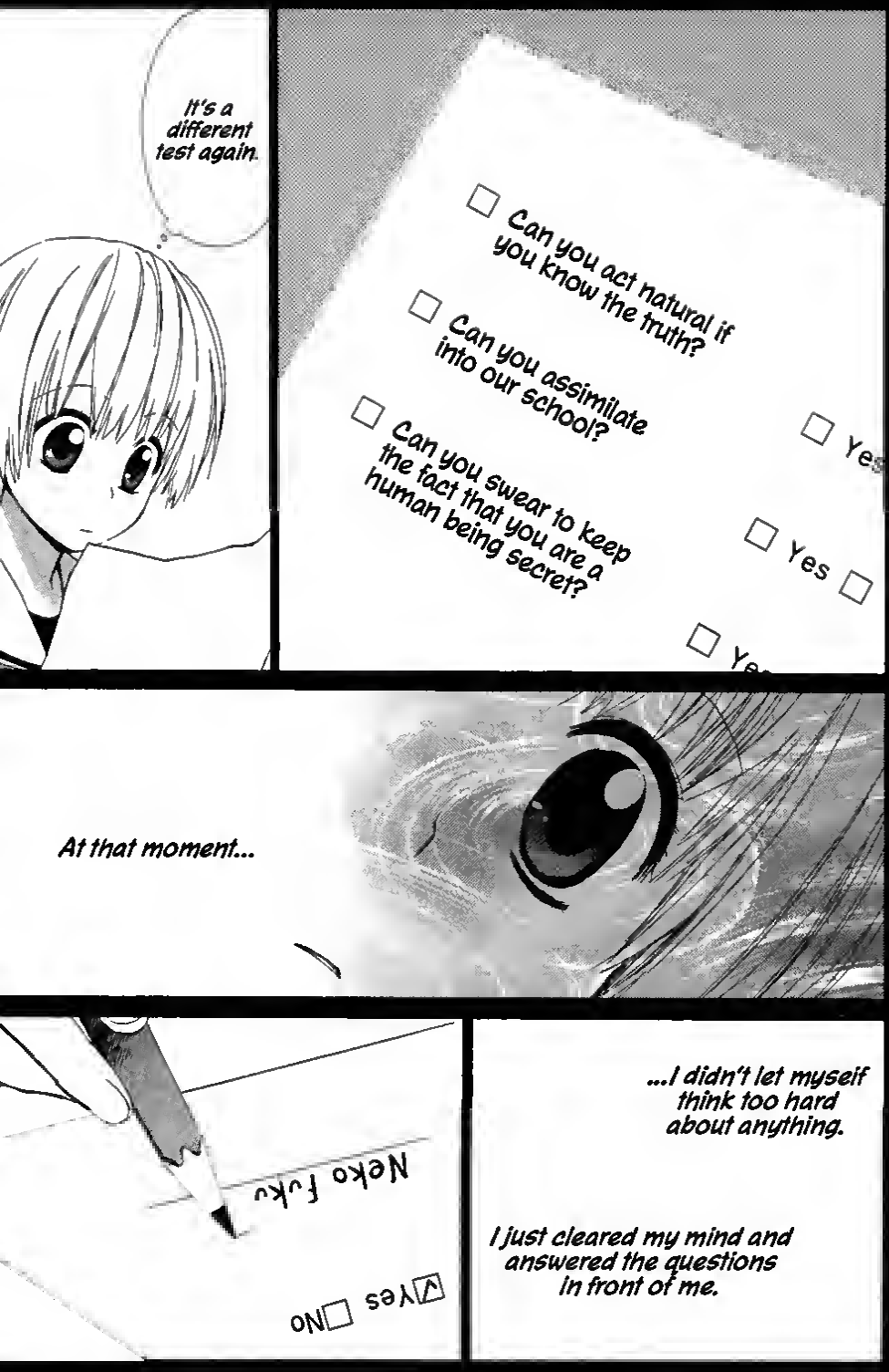
Umm...
I'll do the very best I can.
So...
.....
...oh.




Please!
I promise I'll do my best!
What is it?
My heart spinning like crazy.
Around and around...
...if I'm really not good enough...
...then
...then you can kick me out.
So, please...?
Maybe just try me out before you...
Oh man.
I'm asking for so much...
This thing going 'round and 'round...

A snake...?
!
I was just day dreaming about a snake.
So that spinning I was seeing...
.....
Oh!
Glad I figured that out.

Hey.
!!!
I-I'm sorry!
This is no time to relax!
You're going to have to leave.
The headmaster is giving you a make-up test so you can be rejected formally.
Can't you understand that?
I don't want to understand it!
Well, you're gonna have to!
Ha ha ha ha!
Watanuki-sensei?!
Sorry, it was just so funny...
Ha ha ha!
I've never met anyone like her.
All right.
Neko Fukuta...
...finish the test that's in front of you now.


It's a different test again.
☐ Can you act natural if you know the truth?
☐ Can you assimilate into our school?
☐ Can you swear to keep the fact that you are a human being secret?
☐ Yes
☐ Yes
☐ Yes
At that moment...
...I didn't let myself think too hard about anything.
I just cleared my mind and answered the questions in front of me.
Neko fuku
☑Yes ☐No

Watanuki-sensei...
...escort her to the gate.
Head-master!
I accept your enrollment.
...what?
You've got guts.
Let's go.
Congratu-lations, Neko Fukuta.
We finally have enough students to fill the class!
Yes, Head-master.

To tell you the truth...
...this isn't a school humans should attend.
Huh?
?
It's a school where non-humans learn how to become human.
Well...
Everything should be fine as long as you follow the three rules.
I'm actually a raccoon, see?
?
All right.
When I open this door, you and I will be student and teacher.

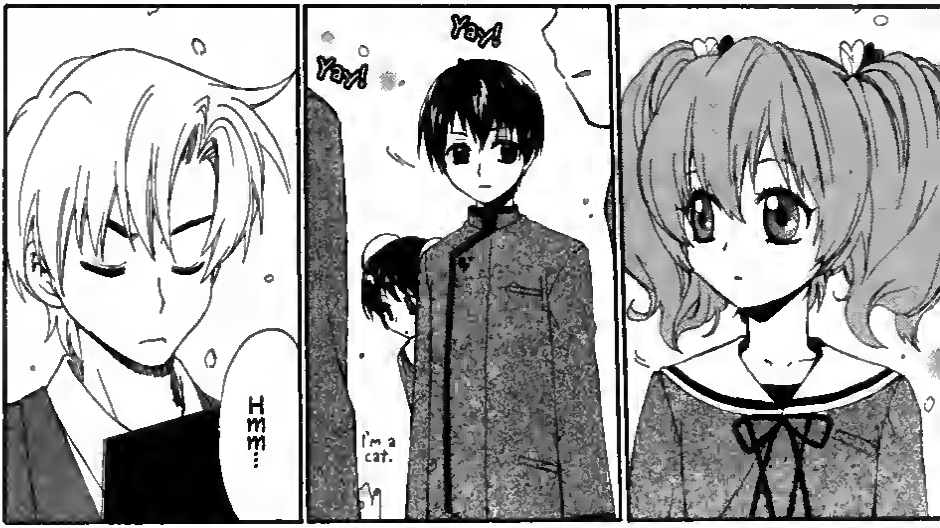
Fukuta-san!
We're in the same class!!!
Look, look! It's great!

See? See?
Here!
The same class!
Our class color is white!
Hug!
ぎゅ..!

I got in!
Hee hee.
?
Wahooo!!!
All right!
I'm just getting started!

I'm Watanuki, and I teach the white class. We'll start getting to know each other right away.
I'll begin by taking attendance.
New students, gather over here!
So that's our teacher...
The guy I just met.
Sense-!!
Yes?
When you call on us, should we say what species we are?

Hey, any raccoons?
I'm glad I came here!
Me! I am!
I'm a cat!
Hey, you're a fox! Me too!
No way!

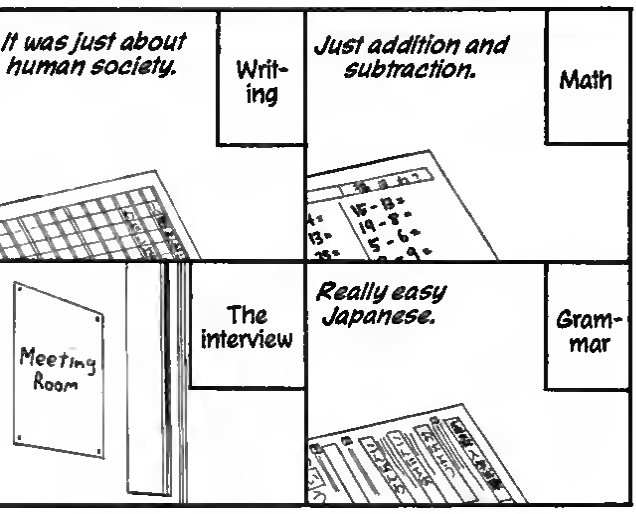

Hmm...
Yes!
Yes!
I'm a cat.

All right, I'll take attendance now!
I see.
...if you want to reveal it, go ahead.
You're all here to learn to become more human... but there's no rule against revealing your species or dropping your transformation, so...
...so I don't recommend it.
But it does get your clothes all dirty...

?!!!

Darn!

Now that I think about it...



...there was something weird about the entrance exam for this school.

So I made animal sounds-- dog, cat, gorilla...
A trick...?
?
Now, show us a trick.
Why didn't I clue in then...?
I must have just been really desperate!
ずか
Whoa!
ずか
ずか
ずか
Wata...
...nuki...
...sen-sei!!!

Shh!!!
Lower your voice!
I told you, this isn't a school for humans. It'll be bad if you give yourself away!
Am I still dream-ing?!
There's definitely something strange about this place!!!
Can I really be a student here?
Sorry about that.
You're in now.
You're my student.
So, wait..
Am I... ...the only human here?
It will?
(Whisper)
Isn't it obvious?
(Whisper)

Yamabiko School for Mental Arrays
MORIMORIGITEN
Morimori High School Encyclo-pedia
Almost everything about this school is in this book.
Look.
What's with the pause?
Just read this.
Come see me if you ever need any-thing.
Umm... Are there... any other humans?
It's against the rules to answer that.
Later!
Maybe it's written in here...

My brain completely shuts down when I see so many words.
It's no use.
Ahh!!!
Study-ing?
I can't study at all. You must be really smart.
Wow.
S-Suzuhara-san...
N-not so much.
Heh.
Oh! You can just call me by my first name.

.....

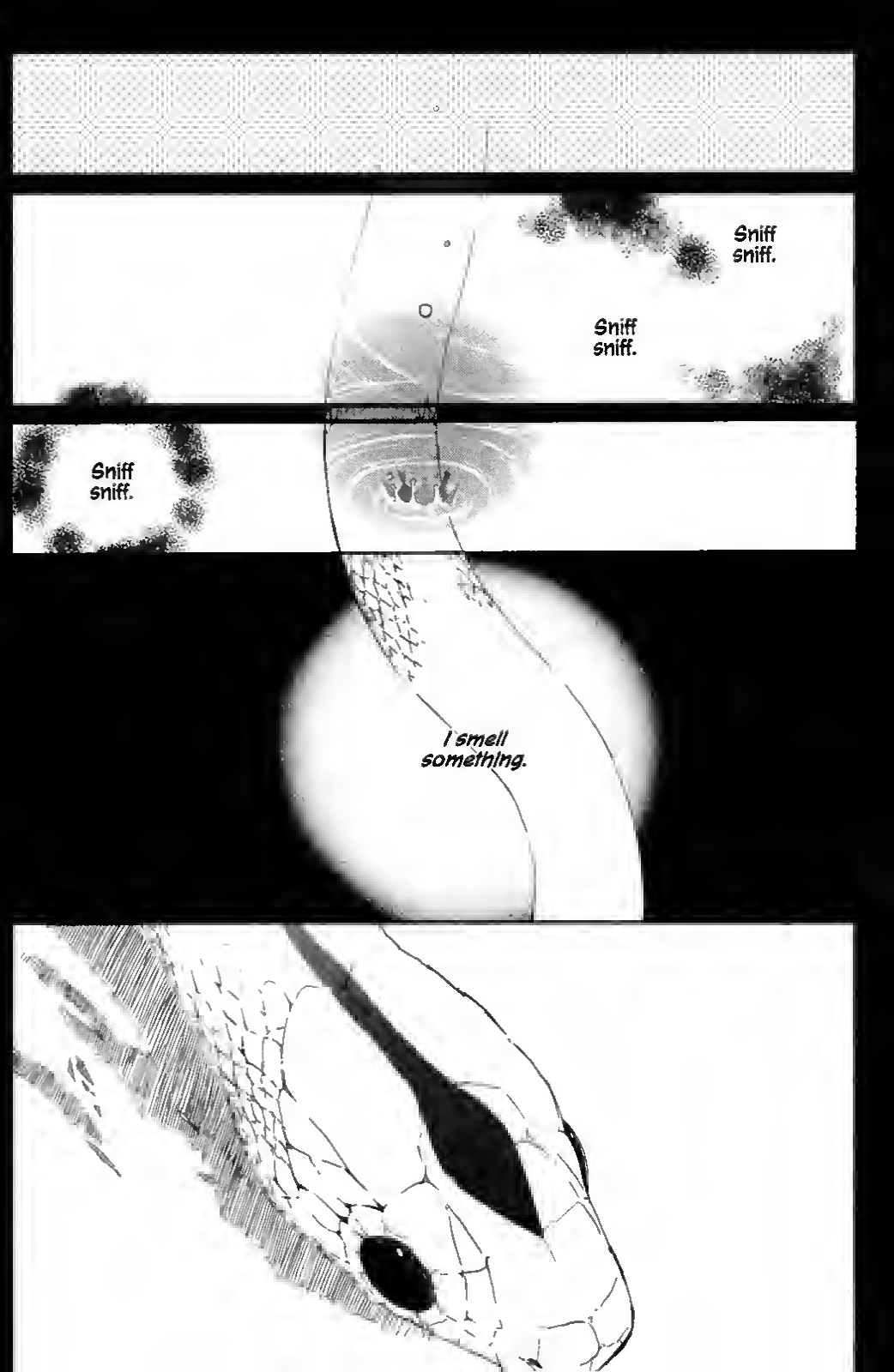
Huh?
That's what everyone called me at my old school.
Oh, it's Neko.
What was that again?
Hey, that's right--she didn't reveal her species or transform earlier.
Could she be...?
So they just called you by what you are?
That's weird.
Umm ...
Uhh... Is it?
Then can I take the "fu" from Fukuta and the "ne" from Neko and call you Fune?
Um... sure...?
But that means "boat" ...

So, then...
...I've been looking for you, Fune-san!
Really?
We're going to be roommates!
Tee hee!
But we're in the same class and the same room! Lucky us!
They let the same types room together.
I'm so glad! I was a little nervous.
Oh, that's right. The dorms.

Let's go!
...she's a human too!
She just said...
... "same types" ... didn't she?
So that means ...
Yeah! It'll be great to--
Hup!
POOF
Oops.

You can just call me Miiko!
Oh!
Whoops, my concentration slipped.
She's a cat...!
S-Suzuhara-san...
Better change back!
She thinks I'm a cat too.
I get it now.
Specialty School For Magical Animals
I'm Neko Fukuta. I'm 15 years old, and starting today I'm a high school student.
And I just made friends with a cat.
Sure...
No problem ...

Report.2 Sniff Sniff


Sniff
sniff.
Sniff
sniff.
Sniff
sniff.
I smell
something.

All right, everyone!
This is the boys' dorm.
Sensei, are there any girls here?
The girls have their own dorm, of course.

A snake! A snake!
Hey, pay attention!
Kinoshita-kun!

Hmm?

Aww, the snake got away.
Well, good.
Did it come in from outside?
No way.
Then it's a student! Cut that out!
Sen-sei!
I'm Neko Fukuta.
I begged this school to accept me as a student, but then it turned out to be a school for animals. What a shocker!

I'm still reeling from it all.
C'mon, self, chin up!
Plus, all the students live in dorms.
And that means... I can't escape.
Here it is.
Carnet
That's right--I've decided to do the best I can here.
This is it?
Yep!
This is my roommate, Miiko Suzuhara.

.....
WOOOW!

My window!
ずぼっ
My shelf!
It's a bunk bed!!!
What a weird shape...
There's the school.
Oh!
Hey, Suzuhara-san...
Are we on the east side or the west?
.....
Miiko?

Eyes are rolled back.
TWITCH
!!!
Should I take the top bunk?
I messed up.
No!
Huh?
Uh... are you okay?

Ugh ...
This is so biz-arre.
A talking cat ...!
Well, cats do like high places...
I'm sleeping on the top!
...a magical cat, isn't she?
She ...
... really is...
I figured she was more mature than this, though.
I guess it was because she was so quiet...
Something did feel different about her right from the start.

Fukuta-san!
We're in the same class!
We're in the same room!
"Then can I take the 'fu' from Fukuta and the 'ne' from Neko and call you Fune?"
All these ...
... magical animals ...
.....
How will I survive here?

Look, over here! This one's open.
Let me see!
Oh, so this is what they're like.
Kind of small, don't you think?
Or maybe this room's smaller than the others?
What's your name?

What's with these people?!
Wha--?
WEIRD
It's Neko Fukuta.
Neko? You're named after what you are?
What a weird name.
The same class?
Cool! So we're all in the same first-year class.
I'm Reira Eisenji.
And this is Wakaba Usuu.
Oh! I'm Tome-rin!
Oh, does this come with the room?
No... That's my stuff...
Hey, what's that?
Let's check it out.

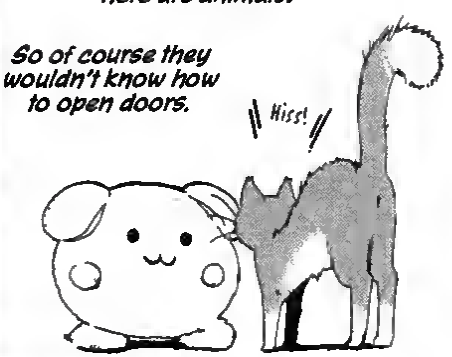
Or is it a great big pillow?
ポン
ポン
My head goes right through!
Maybe it's the bed?
So you're in this room too?
What's your name?
Oh!

SUP
?!!
Hey, what was that for?!
ガタ
ガタッ
ゴゴゴ
Eep!

Wha ...?!
...you stinky raccoon!
Stay away from me...
Aaaaahhhh!
Umm...
So she's a raccoon... (I didn't really listen during the introductions.)
I wonder why she came to our room?
I wouldn't come near you if you begged me to!
What did you just say? You're a cat, right? Well, you're a smelly cat!

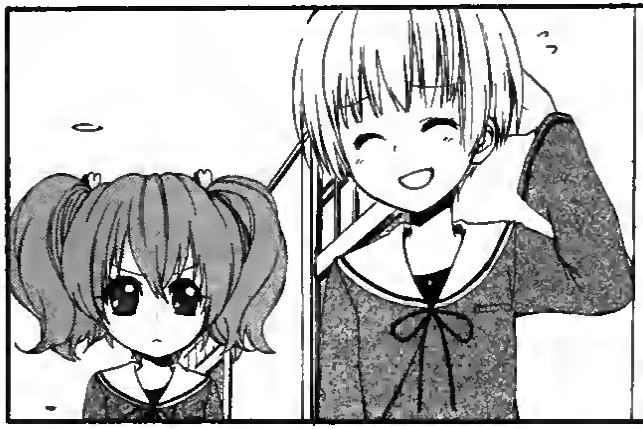
①
The door's open!
②
Lemme see!
This is the only room that's open, so...
...could you please...
...show us how to open the door?
I didn't even notice her.
H-how long have you been there? Are you a raccoon too?
Um... I meant to introduce myself before.
My name is Umeka Kamaba.
Um...
Could you please do us a favor?

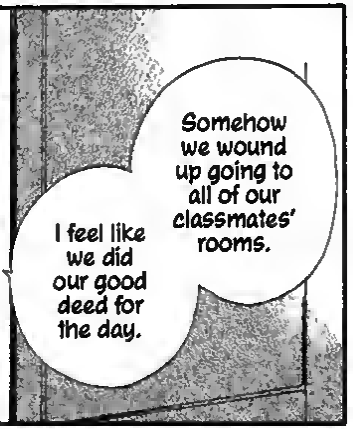
First, you grab this and turn...
...then just push it open.
If that doesn't work, try pulling.
Oh! I get it!


That's right. All of the students here are animals.
So of course they wouldn't know how to open doors.
Hiss!

See you tomorrow!
'kay. Later!

R-really?
Wow, that's pretty cool!
Thanks, Fukuta-san!




Somehow we wound up going to all of our classmates' rooms.
I feel like we did our good deed for the day.

She was the one who said she'd follow us...
Are you okay? You look tired.
.....
Miiko-san?
.....
Um...
Our room's this way.
I wonder if this is what the boys' dorm is like.
I guess our teacher's there too, huh?

ひゃ
?
What's wrong?
……
There's a snake.
ぞわっ

Miiko-san, what are you doing?!
バッシ
バッシ
Wha..?
Hey-!!!
I couldn't help myself.
There's one in our class!
...
One of the boys.
This school is full of different kinds of animals...
...and that includes snakes, I guess.
I've never owned one, so I don't know much about handling them.
A snake, hmm?
?
.....
You knew that and you attacked it anyway?

It sure is friendly.
Huh!
sniff sniff.
sniff sniff.

Shall I put it out of its misery?
No! No killing!
Tooth-marks!
It's hurt!
If you ate it, there'd be a student missing from class tomorrow.
Oh. Right.
We can worry about that later.
Come on, Miiko...
What if this is actually a classmate?

Can it talk?
What're you staring at, little guy?
Are you a student here?
I'm Neko Fukuta, a new student!
Who are you?

Wh-what are you doing?
Paw attack!
SWAT
FLUMP
ナオン
?
Fune?
.....
STAAARE
Warning: Do not try this at home.
Hey!!!

Then I'll do it myself.
Huh?
No way.
Open this.
Understand?
I let it escape.
I didn't throw it away.
What a waste! Why'd you throw it away?!
I feel like I'm back in grade school having a fight...
No.
Can I open it?
Um...
Mean Fune!
You're so bossy.
Is this what she's really like?

Hey...
It seems like you're in a really bad mood all of a sudden.
What are you upset about?
At this rate...
...I don't know if we can even get along...
.....
It's because ...

...
you're
...
...nice to
everyone.
Hm...
Is this...
...some
weird kind of
jealousy?
Er...

Well? Didn't they?!
But they really did stink!
But I still don't think you should call them stinky raccoons...
Really?
Uh...
Oh... Right...
You smelled all that?
And there was even a snake!
And all the others!
And then we went to the fox room!
Huh?
D-don't I...smell different too?
* Human
You have such a sharp nose...
Th-thump
Th-thump

Well, sure.
Cats all smell different.
We were just at that other cat's room, right?
I didn't like that.
It smelled really strange.
Really? Why?
I don't know.
It's just how I feel.
It's like some kind of discrimination.
But you know what?
I really like your smell, Fune.
It calms me down.

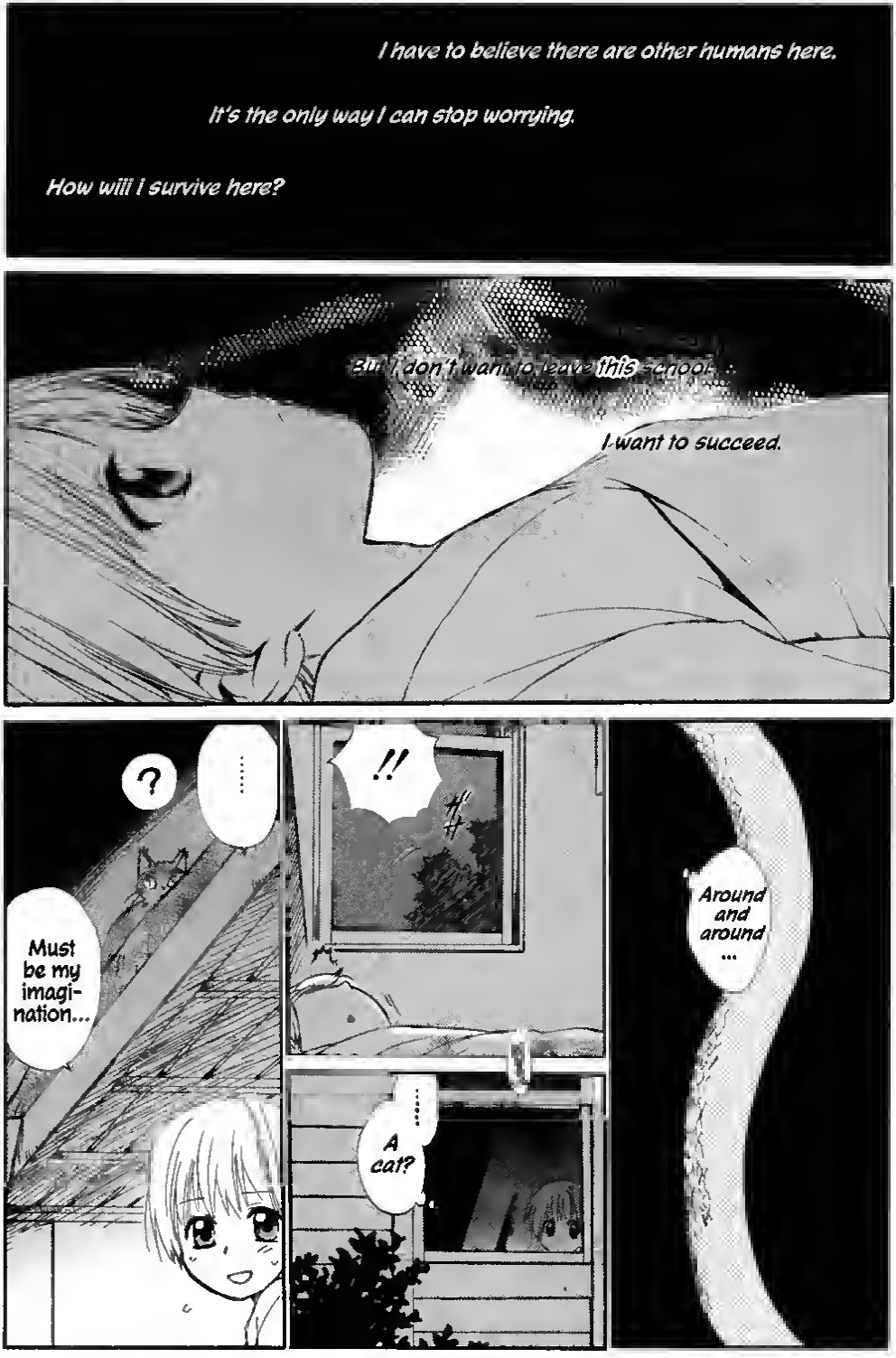
That's why I stopped being so anxious and worried...
...when I found out we were going to be classmates and roommates.

She just said...
...the nicest thing.
.....
Yeah.
And I had only just met her.
Same for me.
It was so encouraging to hear that she was going to this school.
But...

I'm the only one you should be nice to.
I really think...
...you should stop being so rude to everyone else.
Umm...
.....
It's not like I'm some boy--you don't need to be jealous...
You should walk in front of me...
...and open all the doors for me.
I'm the only one who gets to call you Fune.
I gave you that name.
You'll carry my bags when they're heavy.
You'll go where I want.
And I'll sleep above you.

Yeah...
R--
It's more like a princess and her servant...
Watch your step.
This isn't really friendship ...
Right...
So basically...
...she's just really selfish.

Even though she's a cat.
POOF
Can't help smiling back.
She's just so cute.
Good... night.
Good night, Fune!
I lost my concentration again!
Oh well. It's our room.
Sure, being alone is scary.
It's like that for everyone.
So I need to find someone of my kind.
I'm guessing she'd probably get really mad at me if I told her I'm a human.


I have to believe there are other humans here.
It's the only way I can stop worrying.
How will I survive here?
I don't want to leave this school.
I want to succeed.
?
Must be my imagination...
!!
A cat?
Around and around ...

Welcome back, Kurou.
You lost it?
I see.
No, it's fine.
It's not a huge problem.

Good morning!
Morning!
Bing
Bong
ゴーン
Yay!
Yay!
Natural things, unnatural things...
Let's not eat our friends! No Eating or Drinking of Fellow Students Allowed
Morimori High School
Club
Join the Baseball Club!
1918
Looking for this!
I understand the eating, but drinking?
Do they mean... blood?
Let's not eat our friends! No Eating or Drinking of Fellow Students Allowed
Runn
Theater Club

Report.3 Huh? What?!

Looking for a wife!
Kotaro Araki, first year, white class. I'm a cool younger man.
漫画
Hmm?
W-wife...?
Kotaro Araki!

Ow!
Whack!
What the heck?!
No fair attacking from behind!
Show more respect to your elders! And no feet on the desks.
Looking
And one more thing.
Don't write stuff like this on the back of your class schedule and put it on the bulletin board.
Are we clear?

I can just borrow Yuichi's schedule.
The answer I'm looking for is, "yes, sir."
But I put a lot of work into writing that!
So that's the guy looking for a wife...
Did you come to school to find yourself a bride?
Yes, sir!
That... wasn't what I wanted to hear *that* time.
Make up your mind!
.....
Anyway, here's your schedule back.
No.
Hold on to it.
I'll go put it up again ...
Wait...
Miiko sits right behind him.
I wonder if she'll...

Wow... She's sleeping like a baby!
What the heck?! It's just a stupid piece of paper!
Respect!

!
Sorry... I didn't mean to do that!
Ouch ...
ドキ
ドキ

PAN!
Aah!
She isn't--?!
じ
じ
ぱ
ん
……

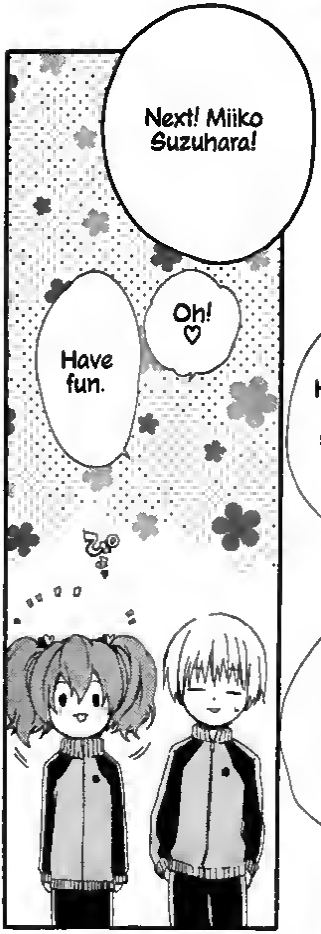
Uh...fair enough. Sorry for getting you involved.
She hit the teacher!
Are you okay?
I got out of the way in time.
Time's up.
You...
If you can tell me what class this is, I'll let it slide.
I'm not okay, Sensei!

Oh dear.
All right, eyes up front.
We're going to assign everyone's class duties and have PE.
Bride...
...huh?
That'll be it for today.
So let's have fun!

...I guess we're at that age.
I mean, you hear a lot about...
...people marrying their high school sweethearts.
It sounds a little extreme, but...
I wonder if Miiko's going to be bringing boyfriends to our room...
5.7 meters!
5.7 meters...
Next! Kotaro Araki!

Araki-kun, 9.2 meters.
Huh?!
Wait, don't you measure from where I first touched the ground?
No, from the back of your foot.
What?! Let me go again!
Next!

Note: The world record is approximately 8.95 meters.



Suzuhara-san, 9.2 meters.
Huh?!
Shouldn't you measure from the front of my leg?
No, from the back.
What?! Let me go again!
Next.
Miiko... You did the exact same thing as that boy...
Argh!
What-ever!

9 meters and 20 centi-meters ...
I'm Kotaro Araki!
What's your name?
...what the--?
I jumped the exact same distance.
This feels kinda like fate.

Huh?!
That's impossible! No way!
Fune, jump 9.2 meters too!
Coming!
Just do it!
There's no way I can do that!
Jump it!!!
I don't like this!
Neko Fukuta.
I'm pretty athletic, but...9 meters?
Well, here goes!
.....

.....
Yes!
4.20 meters.
That's a personal record!
Next!
That wasn't 9.2 meters!
Like I said...
But he said we were the same.

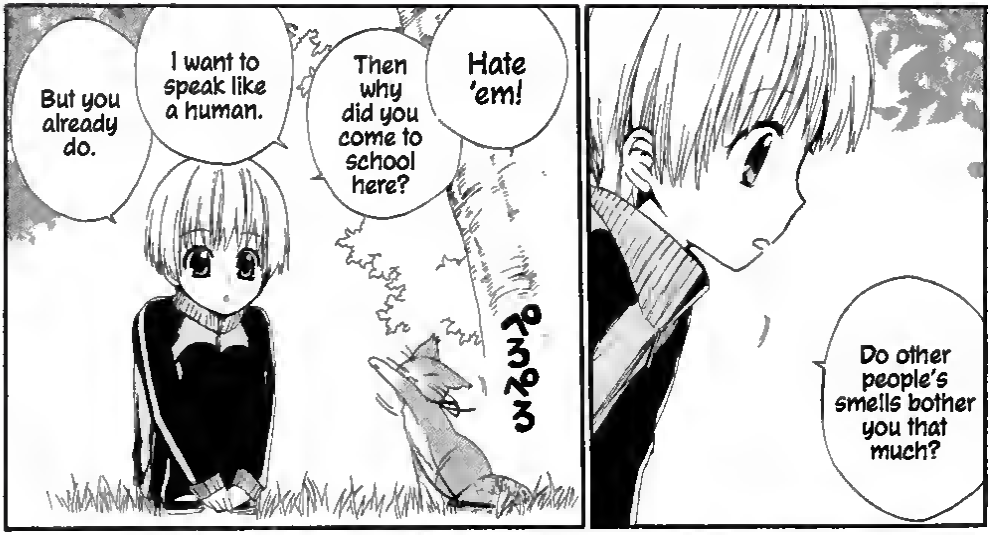
Why would I want to be the same as *that*?!
Ah!
?!!
She's reacting kinda...

Eww!!!
He stinks like a fox!
Huuuuh?!
Yeah, I don't think a fox and cat could get along.
So he's a fox.
I'll...
I'll go get her!
Ha... Sure, bring her back.
Thanks.
7 meters!
Umm...

Ha ha! She rejected you hardcore, dude.
Give it up, Kotaro.
.....
They all seem so human, so I forget...

But they aren't. None of them are.
This is no place for a human.
Here, I'm not athletic, I'm not smart...
I can't fall in love...
Maybe there really aren't any other humans here.

Oh!
lick
lick
lick
Umm...
どきっ
どきっ
It really is a weird shape.
Miiko!
You're not supposed to run off during class.
Uh... your tongue's sticking out.
I wanted to get this smell off me.
Cleaning!


But you already do.
I want to speak like a human.
Then why did you come to school here?
Hate 'em!
Do other people's smells bother you that much?

I see...
I just do!
That's not a reason.
No, I want to do it better!
I mean, I want to be like a normal human.
How come?

……
What about you, Fune?
Me?
Well, I...
……
……

I'm sorry.
The truth is...
...I'm a human.
.....

Oh...
This is bad.

Pretty cool, huh?
Right...?
I shouldn't have said that. What was I thinking?
.....
It's just a joke!
A... joke?
Yeah! of course!
Heh.
Oh, you're so weird!
Heh heh heh.
.....
I... am?
Yup!
Heh heh!
There's no way you're not a cat, Fune!
Ha ha... ha.
Sorry about that.
I'm so sorry.
I'm lying to you, Miiko.

Thank you very much, Sensei!

Hey there.
I need to talk to you.
I'm...
I should take my books with me.
Right?
tap tap
!!!
Don't scare me like that!
There's someone you should meet.
What're you talking about?
whisper
whisper
You're not hitting on every girl in class, are you?
Gonna introduce me to yourself?
No!
It's my roommate.
He says he's a human.

Hold on a sec.
Come on, get up and say hi.
Ow...
He was down there?
Yup, yup.
He told me so.
Really?!
Kotaro!
This is him!

Um...
Err...
Ah...
Um...
Really...?
This is my roommate, Yuichi Takuma!
.....

How about we get to know each other?
Fune?
Leave them alone, Miiko-chan.
I wondered why he...
So that's it...
Of course! I'm really good at it.
By the way, did you find out by eaves-dropping?
Well, cut it out.

Report.4

A Farewell in the Field?

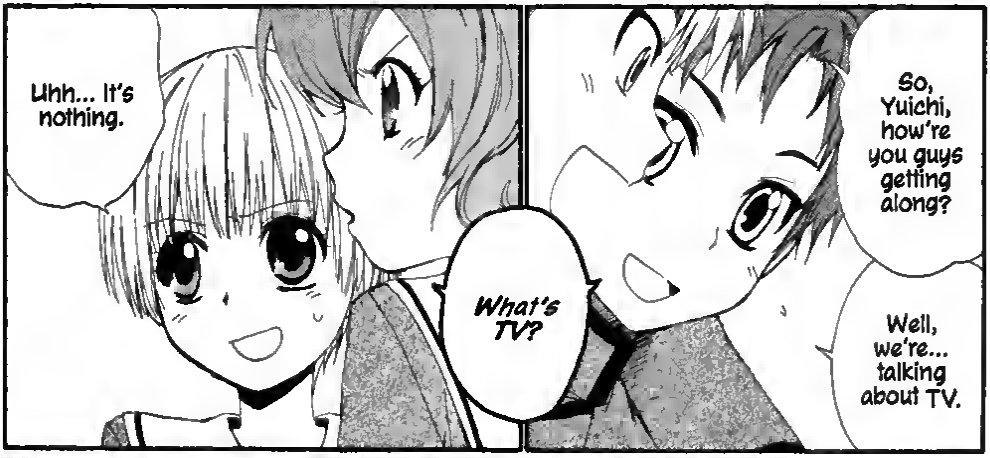
Hey, did you ever watch "The Prisoner of Fossa Magna"?
I did!
I loved how nothing ever seemed to bother him.
Oh, how much of it did you watch?
Did you get to the Red Arrow part?
Yeah, yeah!
Really? Me too.
I never got to see the final episode though.
Do you know VX-77?
I sure do!

Wow, this is great.
Finally, someone who understands what I'm talking about!
I know!
I've missed this so much.
Oh, what about--
ん?!
ば
Miiko?

どうして
Good... morning.
Why did you leave without me?
That's an offended cat, all right.
You were still asleep.
I woke up as soon as you left!
I still got here on time.

You have to tell me!
Man, you scared me...
Oh, okay. So should I wake you up next time?
No!
Wow, so you're a cat. I've never been scared of cats-- they're too cute!
Get lost, you smelly fox!
You could have told me you were going to slam the window.
What are you talking about?!
?
?
My friend's cat was the cutest thing ever.
I've liked them ever since then.
Huh ...
This guy's name is Yuichi Takuma.

But then Kotaro, a fox, introduced me to his roommate, Takuma-kun. Apparently, Takuma-kun was looking for other humans too.
Morning!
Kotaro.
This is such a strange school that I had no idea how to go about searching for other humans.

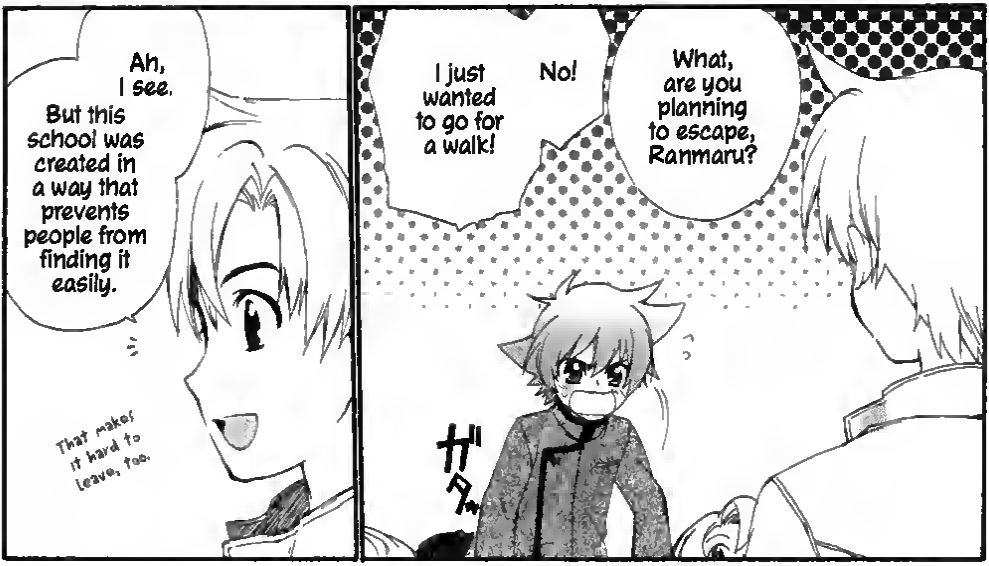

Uhh... It's nothing.
What's TV?
So, Yuichi, how're you guys getting along?
Well, we're... talking about TV.

It's so obvious what he's after...
He's not even trying to hide it
Right, Miiko?!
Well, that's great to hear!

You sure don't learn, Kotaro.
SLAP
I want Miiko to be friendlier with others, but...
...I feel like I'm hurting her.
Err...
GUILT

Stand!
Bow!
BONG
RING
Let's see now
This week... is all about learning the rules for walking safely in the street.
I know a lot of you are still struggling with reading some words, so you don't have to remember all of this right away.
Okay, guys! This is Spring Traffic Safety Week.
Spring Traffic Safety Week
Oh.
So they have to teach stuff like this...
First, we'll go over the many signs you'll come across.
Cool, huh?
...you'll soon learn that many words or symbols are derived from pictures.
We'll have grammar next period, but...

...what's the point ? The school doesn't let us out.
But, Sensei ...
I know you've all seen them before.
Signs are things that look like this, and they stand beside the road.


Ah, I see.
But this school was created in a way that prevents people from finding it easily.
That makes it hard to leave, too.
I just wanted to go for a walk!
No!
What, are you planning to escape, Ranmaru?

If you're late, you'll be standing in the hall.

Make sure you get back here before the bell rings.
Which means that only the special students get in.
we're special...

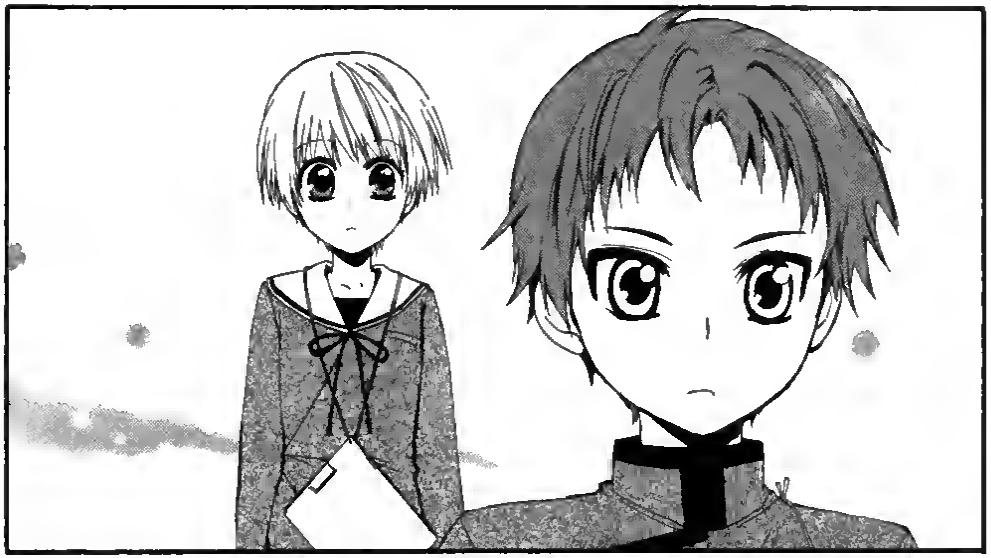
Is this one all right?
Should be.
So our homework is to just draw these signs.
I found one!
Huh?
But we already found this one...
Okay, I'll go find one too!
I hope I can just do things like this until graduation.
So easy.
I wanna find my own!
That kind of hurts...
All right!

All done! ♪
Um...
.....
How do I get back?
You're lost too?
Ah... No.
Oh...
Twitch
I just thought there were some signs over here.

I really like learning about maps and stuff.
Yeah, basically.
And aerial photography
You had them memorized?
You found all those already?
Not exactly.
Really?
Yay, we can make it back!
That's the big bridge.
There's some ruins over there.
That's the elementary school.
Wow...

And if you go down there...
...you'll reach the train station.

If we run right now...
...we could get away from this place.



So you want to leave...?

Oh well! I'm sure they're recording my favorite shows for me!

Kind of.
I don't even know why I'm here.

This place ...
...is like one big lie.
The ground feels so soft and ...fluffy.
It's all fake.
What about you?
I thought it was just me!
So you have things that worry you too.
I should've known better.

Well, i don't think anyone at my house is recording my shows for me...
So...
...do you...
...want to go home too?
Yeah.
.....
Dops.
No.
I should've asked.
No?
!!!
WHAM
Fuuuuneeee!!!

Cat...
Hissss!!!
Help! He won't give up!
M-Mo?
!!
Oops, wrong girl!
By the way, could someone pry him off?
Ah!
Aaah!
Why are you with this... thing, anyway?!
Help me, Fune!
Rude as always.
No progress.

SLAP!
Don't confuse the person you like with someone else!
Th--
That's not the point!
Owww! What the heck?! I just hugged the wrong person! It was an honest mistake!
Dopf

Get your hands off of me!!!
In fact, I'll never let her go!
...I'll never make that mistake again!
Hiss!!!
.....
All right, Yuichi!
From now on...

So cute!
So cute!
……
You got it!
ぎゃ！
ポカ
ポカ
Let go! This sucks!
Don't let go, Kotaro!

Let's go down the hill.
...huh?
This is it.
Now's our chance.
Let's go down there and catch the train home.

Hey!
Yuichi?
Fune!

Bye, guys.
Have fun!
"There's no way you're not a cat, Fune!"

What should I do?
Why am I running?
I'm lying to Miiko.
Because running will get me home.
Is that why?
Home?
What should I do?
Should I...
But...
Should I just... leave?

Ack!!!
びたん。
Are you okay?!
I think so...
I tripped over something.
No, it wasn't that.
Sorry for dragging you.
Tripping like a little kid...

Huh? You know a snake?
Oh! This is the same one!
But, see this?
I put this bandage on him!
I...don't know.
Is it a student?
Well, I don't know its name or anything...
Are you looking back at the school?
What?
?

.....
Fukuta...
...san
The train station's right down there.

.....
Fukuta-san?
.....
?
きょろ
きょろ
Up here.
Above you!
Hey there.
...
...

What are you guys doing out here?
Oh!
Um...

What are you doing?
Looking for signs, of course.
You're in our class! Sagami, right?
Use my first name. It's Sasuke.
スッ
And you guys are up to... what, exactly?
Urk!
Huh?
S-same as you! So... you find any signs around here?
Ah, okay.
Um... Sasuke... kun.
It's just Sasuke.
Okay, then.
I'd appreciate it if you didn't tell anyone you saw us here... Sasuke.
Where'd the snake go?

It's half past, by the way.
Thanks!
All right.
.....
Here! You can have our signs.
It's the homework!
You'll just be waiting around at the platform if you go down there now.
Whisper
That means the train just left the station.

So he knew!!!
Ding
Dong
What's with that guy?!
If he knew, why'd he ask what we were doing?!
But he bowed when he walked past us.
.....
He did?
Unless I saw it wrong...
Anyway, I'm sorry, Takuma-kun.
culprit
Does it hurt?
.....
No, it's my fault you got in trouble.
Sorry.
It's okay.
Thank you.

Stupid...
Stupid Fune!!!

Promise?
.....
Don't ever go off like that.

Afterward...
Uh-huh.
.....

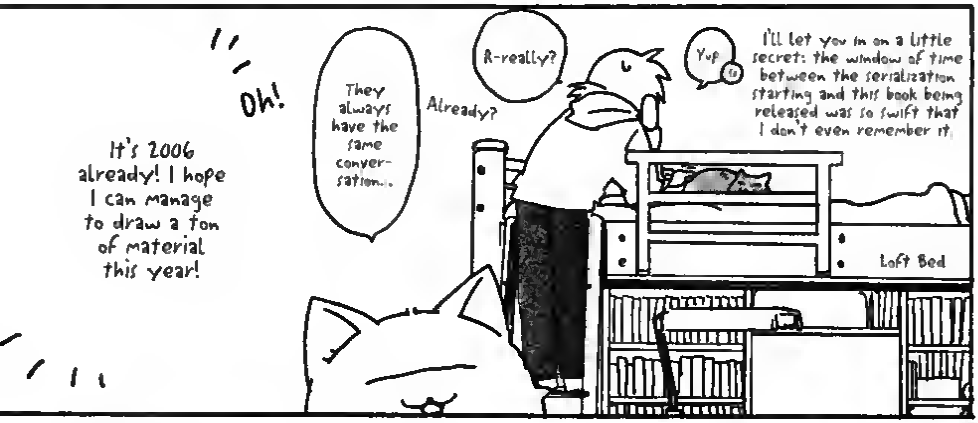
Maybe it lists the names of all the students in here?
it's too long... I can't read it all.
I wonder what the snake's name is.
...I looked at the book the teacher had given me, and...
...it explained how this school isn't a place where you can just come or go easily.
I'll ask the next time I see it.
I'm a human, but...
I'm sorry, Miiko.
Zzz...
Zzz...

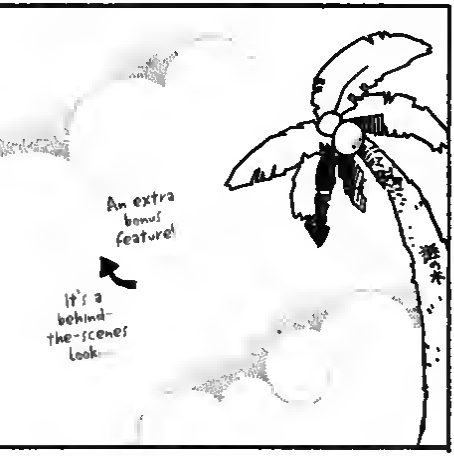
...I'm going to have to...
...keep that secret from you.

Marimari PJs

Postscript 1

Yay! Volume 1!
Thank you so much for picking up volume 1 of this school story...or is it an animal story?
Hello! This is Moyamu Fujino!


Oh!
It's 2006 already! I hope I can manage to draw a ton of material this year!
They always have the same conversation...
Already?
R-really?
Yup
I'll let you in on a little secret: the window of time between the serialization starting and this book being released was so swift that I don't even remember it.
Loft Bed



Miiko Suzuhara

I have a very similar rude cat at home.

I'm sure cat-lovers will like her, but non-cat-lovers will probably be like, "I don't give a darn about you!"

My friend told me to model her after my cat... so that's what I did.

Neko Fukuta

At first she was a ruder 15-year-old. But if she was rude and got bad grades, well...what would be her good point?

Her personality changed every time I wrote a new draft of chapter one.

No sexiness or fashion sense.

Now she's more of a stupid-but-energetic girl. Hopefully that's more positive.

I designed a bunch of different hairstyles for my editor to choose from. And here you see the strong (?) main character!

Animals can't help but be cute!

But you know what?

These are cute too!

Oh, cute!

What am I doing?

Sorry...

I hope this section doesn't wind up being just me talking about cats...

My hamster's doing well too.

I hope to see you in the next volume.

I'm still working to get better, but I'm putting a lot of love into this work!

The people who helped me on volume 1

- O. Miwa
- K. Miwa
- M. Yuki
- My Editor
- My roommates

Thank you so much!

In the next volume of...

The fun never stops at Morimori High School! Fune and her friends are settling in to their classes and dorm life, but there are plenty of surprises in store as Fune learns more about the strange school rules, as well as some of its more mysterious students. And when it comes time to pick extra-curriculars? What will Fune do?!